

MARVEL

3


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HISTORY OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE



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HISTORY OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE



At the end of existence, Franklin Richards asked Galactus to tell him the story of their universe as they wait for its heat death. Galactus began with the first stirrings of life and left off with the fateful space mission that would result in the formation of the Fantastic Four. Now, the story continues...

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ON AN ILL-FATED SPACE MISSION, FOUR ASTRONAUTS--**BEN GRIMM**, **REED RICHARDS**, **REED'S** FIANCEE, **SUSAN STORM**, AND HER BROTHER, **JOHNNY**--WERE BOMBARDED BY COSMIC RAYS FAR TOO POWERFUL FOR THE SHIELDS ON RICHARDS' SHIP TO WITHSTAND.

THEIR BODIES CHANGED DRASTICALLY, GIVING THEM SUPERHUMAN POWERS AND ABILITIES.

RICHARDS, GUILTY OVER HOW HE'D ALTERED HIS FRIENDS' LIVES, REFUSED TO LET THEM BE FEARED BY THE WORLD AS FREAKS. INSTEAD, HE TURNED THEM INTO A GROUP OF SUPER HEROES IN COLORFUL COSTUMES WHO EMBRACED A LIFE OF CELEBRITY AND GLAMOUR.

JOHNNY STORM:
THE HUMAN TORCH.

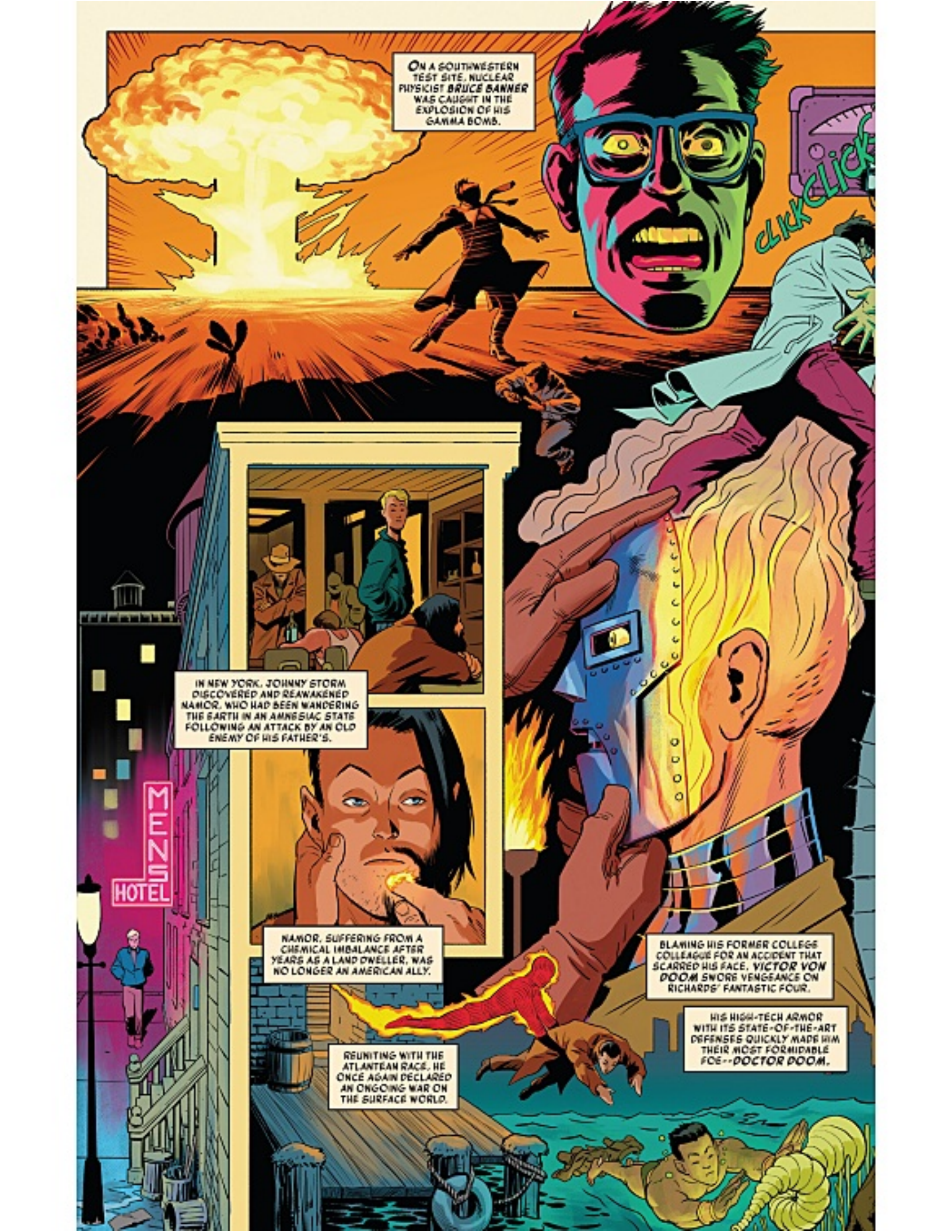
REED RICHARDS:
MR. FANTASTIC.

SUSAN STORM:
THE INVISIBLE GIRL.

BEN GRIMM:
THE THING.

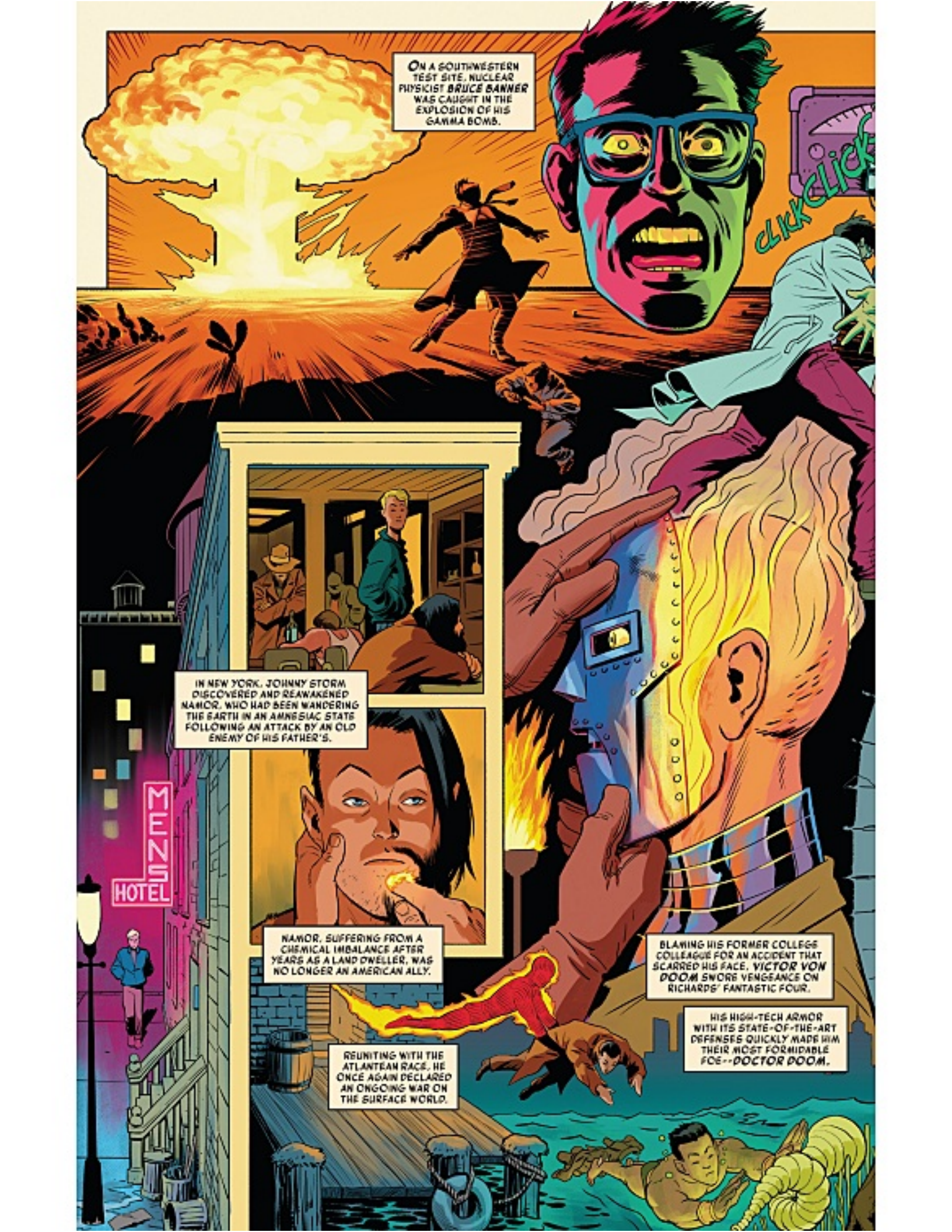
TOGETHER, THEY HERALDED A NEW AGE OF HEROES AS THE **FANTASTIC FOUR**.





ON A SOUTHWESTERN TEST SITE, NUCLEAR PHYSICIST BRUCE BANNER WAS CAUGHT IN THE EXPLOSION OF HIS GAMMA BOMB.

click click



IN NEW YORK, JOHNNY STORM DISCOVERED AND REAWAKENED NAMOR, WHO HAD BEEN WANDERING THE EARTH IN AN AMNESIAC STATE FOLLOWING AN ATTACK BY AN OLD ENEMY OF HIS FATHER'S.

NAMOR, SUFFERING FROM A CHEMICAL IMBALANCE AFTER YEARS AS A LAND DWELLER, WAS NO LONGER AN AMERICAN ALLY.

REUNITING WITH THE ATLANTIAN RACE, HE ONCE AGAIN DECLARED AN ONGOING WAR ON THE SURFACE WORLD.

BLAMING HIS FORMER COLLEGE COLLEAGUE FOR AN ACCIDENT THAT SCARRED HIS FACE, VICTOR VON DOOM SWORE VENGEANCE ON RICHARDS' FANTASTIC FOUR.

HIS HIGH-TECH ARMOR WITH ITS STATE-OF-THE-ART DEFENSES QUICKLY MADE HIM THEIR MOST FORMIDABLE Foe--DOCTOR DOOM.

CHUCKLE

AS THE RADIATION SETTLED IN HIS SYSTEM, BANNER'S BODY WOULD RESPOND TO STRESS BY TRANSFORMING INTO THE HULK, A RAGING BEHEMOTH WHOSE LEVEL OF INTELLIGENCE WAS CONTINUALLY IN FLUX BUT WHOSE STRENGTH FOLLOWED ONE RULE: THE Madder HULK GOT, THE STRONGER HE GOT.

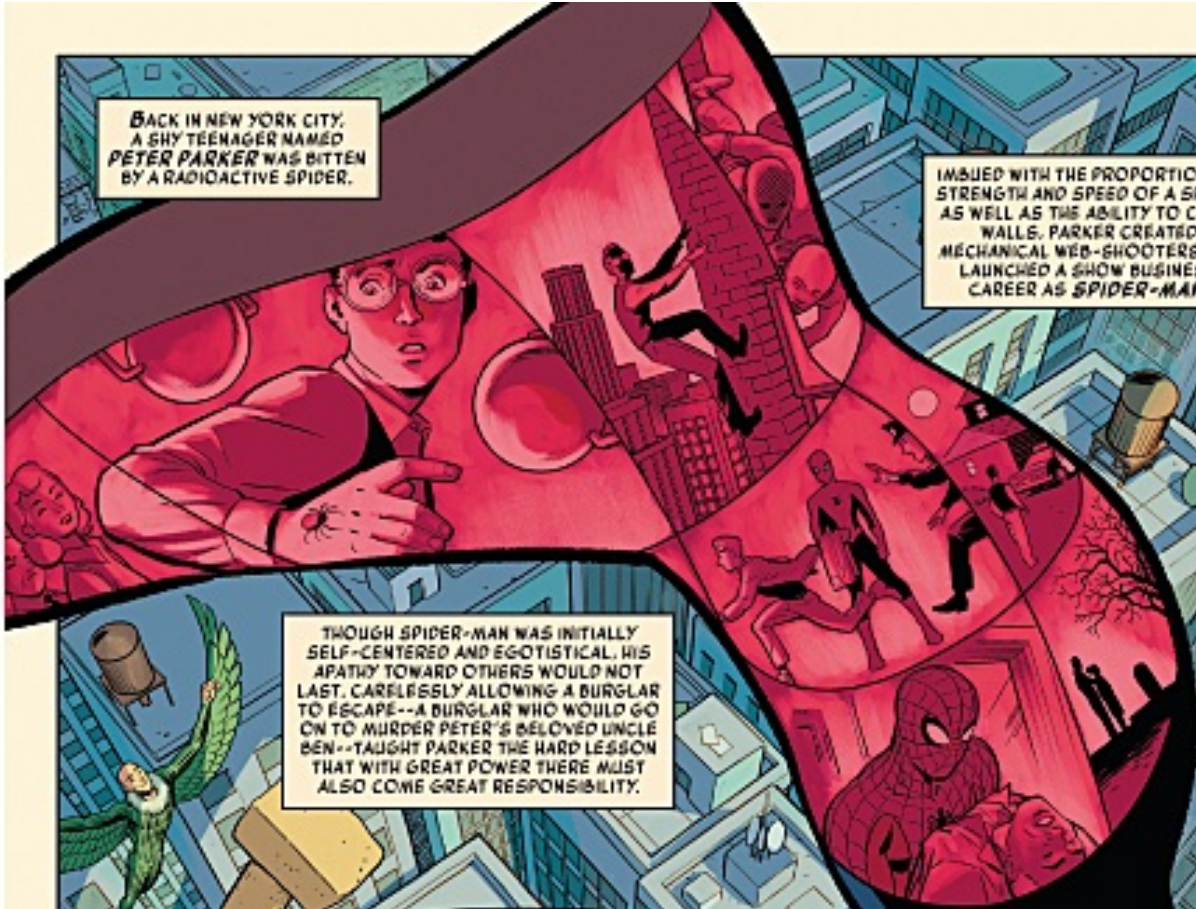
AFTER AN ACCIDENT IN WHICH ECCENTRIC SCIENTIST HANK PYM EXPOSED HIMSELF TO HIS OWN SHRINKING POTION, HE WAS INSPIRED TO MAKE USE OF HIS SIZE-CHANGING EXPERIMENTS.

BY COMBINING HIS "PYM PARTICLES" WITH A HELMET THAT ALLOWED HIM TO COMMUNICATE WITH ANTS, HE BECAME KNOWN AS ANT-MAN.

LIKE NAMOR, DOOM WAS THE RULER OF HIS OWN KINGDOM: LATVERIA, A SMALL BALKAN NATION.

GRANTED DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY BY HIS THRONE, DOOM USED LATVERIA AS A BASE FROM WHICH TO LAUNCH REPEATED ATTEMPTS TO CONQUER THE WORLD.

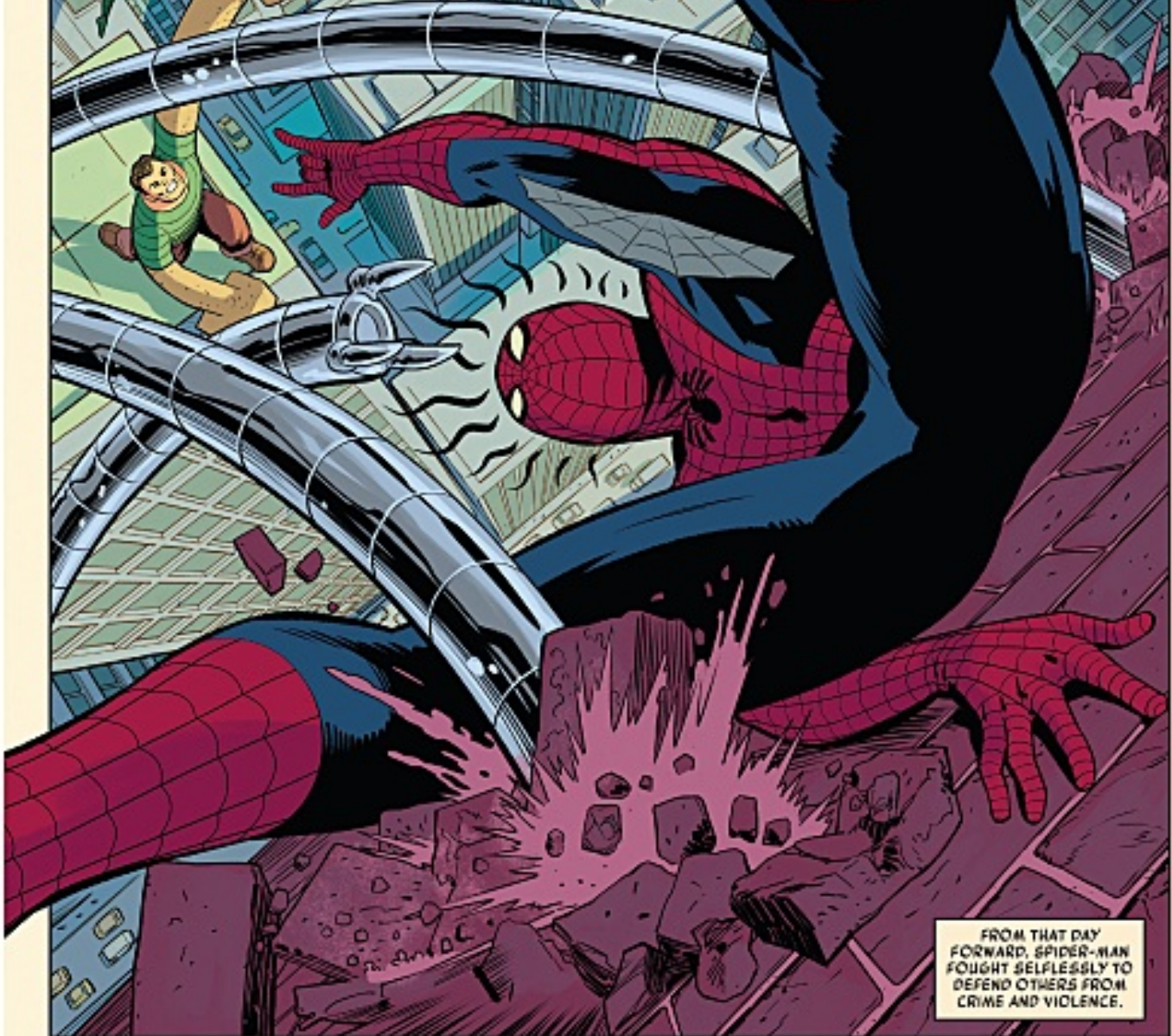




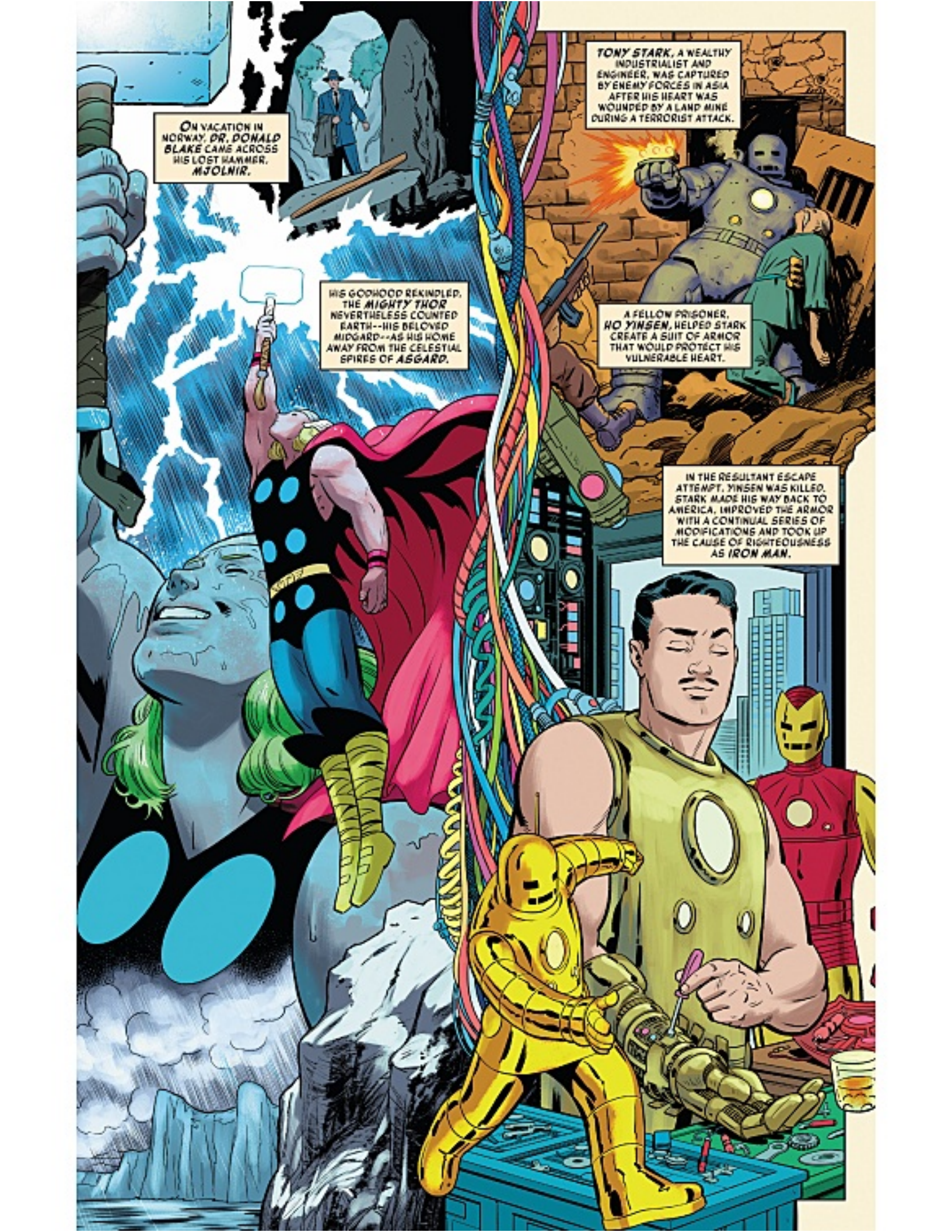
BACK IN NEW YORK CITY,
A SHY TEENAGER NAMED
PETER PARKER WAS BITTEN
BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER.

IMBUED WITH THE PROPORTIONATE
STRENGTH AND SPEED OF A SPIDER
AS WELL AS THE ABILITY TO CLIMB
WALLS, PARKER CREATED
MECHANICAL WEB-SHOOTERS AND
LAUNCHED A SHOW BUSINESS
CAREER AS **SPIDER-MAN**.

THOUGH SPIDER-MAN WAS INITIALLY
SELF-CENTERED AND EGOTISTICAL, HIS
APATHY TOWARD OTHERS WOULD NOT
LAST. CARELESSLY ALLOWING A BURGLAR
TO ESCAPE--A BURGLAR WHO WOULD GO
ON TO MURDER PETER'S BELOVED UNCLE
BEN--TAUGHT PARKER THE HARD LESSON
THAT WITH GREAT POWER THERE MUST
ALSO COME GREAT RESPONSIBILITY.



FROM THAT DAY
FORWARD, SPIDER-MAN
FOUGHT SELFLESSLY TO
DEFEND OTHERS FROM
CRIME AND VIOLENCE.



ON VACATION IN NORWAY, DR. DONALD BLAKE CAME ACROSS HIS LOST HAMMER, MJOLNIR.

HIS GODHOOD REKINDLED, THE MIGHTY THOR NEVERTHELESS COUNTED EARTH--HIS BELOVED MIDGARD--AS HIS HOME AWAY FROM THE CELESTIAL SPIRES OF ASGARD.

TONY STARK, A WEALTHY INDUSTRIALIST AND ENGINEER, WAS CAPTURED BY ENEMY FORCES IN ASIA AFTER HIS HEART WAS WOUNDED BY A LAND MINE DURING A TERRORIST ATTACK.

A FELLOW PRISONER, HO YINSEN, HELPED STARK CREATE A SUIT OF ARMOR THAT WOULD PROTECT HIS VULNERABLE HEART.

IN THE RESULTANT ESCAPE ATTEMPT, YINSEN WAS KILLED. STARK MADE HIS WAY BACK TO AMERICA, IMPROVED THE ARMOR WITH A CONTINUAL SERIES OF MODIFICATIONS AND TOOK UP THE CAUSE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS AS IRON MAN.

STAN'S SOAPBOX

For many years we've been trying, in our own bumbling way, to illustrate that love is a far greater force, a far greater power than hate. Now we don't mean you're expected to go around like a pirouetting Pollyanna, tossing posies at everyone who passes by, but we do want to make a point. Let's consider three men: Buddha, Christ, and Moses . . . men of peace, whose thoughts and deeds have influenced countless millions throughout the ages — and whose presence still is felt in every corner of the earth. Buddha, Christ, and Moses . . . men of good will, men of tolerance, and especially men of love. Now, consider the practitioners of hate who have sullied the pages of history. Who still venerates their words? Where is homage still paid to their memory? What banners still are raised to their cause? The power of love — and the power of hate. Which is most truly enduring? When you tend to despair . . . let the answer sustain you.

Excelsior!

Smiley



STAN LEE
FOREVER

GRAINGER, North Carolina . . . our pal SAL BUSCEMA, Virginia; while Jaunty J. STERANKO and Joltin' J. CRAIG both have their pads in Pennsylvania . . . Torrid TOM SUTTON, Massachusetts . . . JIM (Mad-man) MOONEY, Connecticut . . . and Valiant VINCE COLLETTA, Jumpin' JOHNNY SEVERIN, and Genial GENE COLAN, all nesting in New Jersey! The rest of us share the same high taxes and traffic jams in New York and Long Island — darn it! (And we never DID find out where Honest Irv holes up!)

Now, before cutting out, we've just gotta tell you about Jolly SOLLY BRODSKY. A few days ago he announced that he, stunned the children were finally prepared to prepare

CAPTAIN AMERICA about a Marvel senses-shattering ita — featuring A really in action!

HULK #116: T whole world a SUPER-HUMAN And now — her dynamite!

IRON MAN = PHANTOM — power than a ters! Can ev him?

SUB-MARINE you thought the HUMAN of the Mad really rock

CAPTAIN ble IRON PET MAS the Kree

SGT. FUR HITLER! when or traitor!

CAPT. S you der "Savag blockb order!

COLL matte MAN ish arou

MIG dig THE KID we

RA "p th

THE WATCHER TASKED WITH MONITORING THE EARTH REVEALED HIMSELF TO THE FANTASTIC FOUR DURING THEIR BATTLE WITH THE RED GHOST AND HIS SUPER-POWERED APES, RESIDING IN THE LONG-ABANDONED KREE LUNAR OUTPOST KNOWN AS THE "BLUE AREA." DATU FOUND HIMSELF MOVED BY THE NOBILITY OF THE HUMAN RACE.


HE BEGAN TO IGNORE HIS VOW OF NONINTERFERENCE, APPEARING FREQUENTLY TO WARN EARTH'S HEROES OF SUFFICIENTLY THREATENING CRISES.

HEIRESS JANET VAN DYNE'S FLIGHTY NATURE WENT FROM FIGURATIVE TO LITERAL WHEN ANT-MAN OFFERED TO HELP HER BRING HER FATHER'S KILLER TO JUSTICE.

SUBJECTED TO A UNIQUE BIOCHEMICAL PROCESS COMBINED WITH PYM PARTICLES, VAN DYNE GAINED WINGS WHENEVER SHE SHRANK TO INSECT SIZE, OUTFITTED WITH WRIST-BLAST "STINGERS," SHE FOUGHT ALONGSIDE PYM AS THE WASP.

THE ROMANTIC SPARK BETWEEN THE TWO OF THEM WOULD GROW-- AND SOON, SO WOULD PYM HIMSELF, REVERSING HIS SHRINKING PROCESS TO BECOME THE THUNDEROUS GIANT-MAN.






THOR'S SINISTER ADOPTED BROTHER--
THE GOD OF MISCHIEF, LOKI--
INADVERTENTLY BROUGHT MANY OF
EARTH'S NEW HEROES TOGETHER AS THEY
JOINED FORCES TO DEFEAT HIS EVIL.

THOUGH THE HULK WOULD LEAVE
THEIR RANKS ALMOST IMMEDIATELY,
THE OTHERS ESTABLISHED THE TONY
STARK-FUNDED TEAM KNOWN AS THE
AVENGERS. PUBLIC HEROES, THEY
WERE GREETED WITH WIDE ACCEPTANCE.

MUTANT CHARLES XAVIER'S CHARGES
WERE NOT SO FORTUNATE. FOR YEARS, THE
TELEPATHIC XAVIER HAD BEEN RECRUITING
YOUNG MUTANTS TO HIS SCHOOL IN
WESTCHESTER, NEW YORK, TRAINING THEM
IN THE USE OF THEIR POWERS. FIVE OF
THEM--CYCLOPS, ICEMAN, BEAST,
ANGEL AND MARVEL GIRL--FORMED
XAVIER'S FIRST TEAM OF X-MEN.

THOUGH THEY FOUGHT EVIL AND
MAYHEM AS BRAVELY AS THE AVENGERS,
MUTANTS WERE NONETHELESS FEARED
AND HATED BY THE GENERAL POPULACE,
FORCING THE X-MEN TO OPERATE
LARGELY OUTSIDE THE LIMELIGHT.



IN THE YEARS FOLLOWING WORLD WAR II, MUTANT MAX EISENHARDT'S BITTERNESS TOWARD THE HUMAN RACE REACHED A CRESCENDO.


LOST FOR DECADES IN SUSPENDED ANIMATION, CAPTAIN AMERICA'S FROZEN BODY WAS DISCOVERED AND REVIVED BY THE AVENGERS.

THOUGH THE SHOCK OF AWAKENING DECADES INTO HIS FUTURE WAS PROFOUND, AND THOUGH HE MOURNED BUCKY, STEVE ROGERS ADAPTED QUICKLY TO HIS NEW SURROUNDINGS AND PROVED HIMSELF AS FORMIDABLE AS EVER AS AN AVENGER.

LIKE HIS OLD FRIEND XAVIER, EISENHARDT GATHERED MUTANTS UNDER HIS WING, BUT ONLY THOSE WHO SHARED HIS MISTRUST OF HUMANITY.

TAKING THE NAME MAGNETO, HIS BROTHERHOOD BECAME THE X-MEN'S GREATEST NEMESIS.

ORIGINALLY COMPRISING MASTERMIND, THE TOAD, QUICKSILVER AND THE SCARLET WITCH, MAGNETO'S BROTHERHOOD WOULD LATER CLAIM DOZENS OF CORRUPT MUTANTS AS MEMBERS.



SPILLED RADIOACTIVE WASTE BLINDED YOUNG MATT MURDOCK, BUT IT ENHANCED HIS REMAINING SENSES A THOUSANDFOLD AND GAVE HIM AN ECHOLLOCATION-LIKE "RADAR SENSE" THAT HELPED COMPENSATE FOR HIS LACK OF SIGHT.

AFTER HIS FATHER, A BOXER, WAS MURDERED FOR REFUSING TO THROW A FIGHT, THE ADULT MURDOCK CHOSE TO SERVE JUSTICE NOT ONLY IN THE COURTROOM AS AN ACCOMPLISHED LAWYER BUT AS DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR.

DURING A RAMPAGE THROUGH MANHATTAN, THE HULK ENCOUNTERED THE FANTASTIC FOUR, LEADING TO THE FIRST EXTENDED BATTLE BETWEEN THE THING AND THE HULK. THE HEROISM DEMONSTRATED BY THE FANTASTIC FOUR REMINDED THE AVENGERS THAT THEY WEREN'T EARTH'S ONLY LINE OF DEFENSE AGAINST TITANIC MENACES.

FOR THE FIRST TIME, IRON MAN AND HIS TEAMMATES FELT THEY COULD TURN THEIR FULL ATTENTION BACK TO THEIR OWN LIVES.

BUT WHEN THEY PUT OUT A CALL FOR REPLACEMENTS, NOTHING COULD HAVE PREPARED THEM FOR THE APPLICANTS: THE SCARLET WITCH AND QUICKSILVER, FREELY DIVORCED FROM MAGNETO'S INFLUENCE, AND HAWKEYE, A TRICK-ARROW MARKSMAN AND REFORMED CRIMINAL.

IT TOOK EVERY BIT OF DIPLOMACY AND WILLPOWER CAPTAIN AMERICA COULD MUSTER TO KEEP SUCH A DISPARATE GROUP TOGETHER, BUT THEY IN TIME PROVED THEMSELVES TO BE WORTHY SUCCESSORS.




MORE AND MORE, THE CHAMPIONS AND THE VILLAINS OF THIS NEW AGE BEGAN TO ENCOUNTER ONE ANOTHER IN BATTLE, CULMINATING AT THE WEDDING OF REED RICHARDS AND SUE STORM.



THE WEDDING WAS BOTH ATTENDED AND SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDED BY ALL OF EARTH'S PROMINENT HEROES AS THEY FOUGHT OFF AN ASSEMBLED LEGION OF ENEMIES DISPATCHED BY DOCTOR DOOM.





YOUR PARENTS TRAVELED
AROUND THE WORLD,
FORMING NEW ALLIANCES. IN
THE HIMALAYAS, THEY MET
THE INHUMANS, LED BY BLACK
BOLT, WHOSE VOICE HAD THE
POWER TO LEVEL MOUNTAINS.

IN WAKANDA,
THEY ENCOUNTERED
KING T'CHALLA, THE
BLACK PANTHER.

AND IN NEW YORK, THEY
FACED THEIR DEFINING
CHALLENGE WHEN THE
SILVER SURFER BROUGHT
ME TO YOUR PLANET
FOR THE FIRST TIME.

INFECTED BY HUMAN COMPASSION,
THE SURFER BETRAYED ME,
ASSISTING RICHARDS AND HIS
TEAMMATES IN FORCING ME TO
TURN MY ATTENTIONS AWAY FROM
DEVOURING EARTH FOR A TIME.

AS PUNISHMENT FOR HIS
TREACHERY, I TEMPORARILY
CONFINED THE SURFER TO EARTH,
DENYING HIM THE ABILITY TO
SOAR THE SPACENWAYS. EVENTUALLY,
PROPERLY CHASTISED, HE WOULD
AGAIN SERVE AT MY COMMAND.

THE ORIGINAL RED SKULL, AWAKENED FROM SUSPENDED ANIMATION BY THE TERRORIST ORGANIZATION A.I.M.,--ADVANCED IDEA MECHANICS--BRIEFLY HELD THE REALITY-CHANGING WEAPON KNOWN AS THE COSMIC CUBE BEFORE HAVING IT WRESTED AWAY IN BATTLE WITH CAPTAIN AMERICA.

UNDER THE NEWLY ASSUMED IDENTITY OF YELLOWJACKET, HANK PYM WED JANET VAN DYNE.

MEANWHILE, THE KREE TURNED THEIR ATTENTION TO EARTH ONCE MORE. A HIGHLY TRAINED KREE SOLDIER, MAR-VELL, WAS DISPATCHED TO SPY ON THE HUMAN RACE.





I THOUGHT
YOU'D NEVER
GET AROUND
TO ME.

YOURS IS A
COMPLEX HISTORY
UNTO ITS OWN, FRANKLIN
RICHARDS. THE MOST
POWERFUL MUTANT
EVER BORN.

AS I
CONSUME,
SO DO YOU
BUILD.

DID BUILD.

NOT AT FIRST,
THAT MUCH. I RECALL
BUT, EVENTUALLY,
WORLDS. THEN, AS I
GREW OLDER,
MULTIVERSES.

A FEW
CENTURIES AFTER
THAT, I REALLY
LET MY IMAGINATION
RUN WILD.
DIDN'T I?

WE'RE THE
BALANCE OF THE
UNIVERSE. REALLY, YOU AND
I, THE UTMOST CREATOR, THE
ULTIMATE DESTROYER. WOULD I
EVEN HAVE BEEN BORN HAD YOU
NOT EXISTED? HAVE YOU BEEN
INESSANTLY RESURRECTED
BECAUSE I WAS
AROUND?

DO WE
NEED EACH
OTHER?

YOU'RE
COMING WITH
ME, RIGHT? WHEN
WE LEAVE
HERE.

GALAN?

THE TWENTY-
FIRST CENTURY.
AS YOU MEASURE
IT, MARCHED
ONWARD.



EARTHMAN RICK JONES, ONCE THE HULK'S COMPANION AND BRIEFLY CAPTAIN AMERICA'S FIGHTING PARTNER, BECAME A KEY PLAYER IN HUMAN HISTORY AS THE KREE'S ETERNAL STRUGGLE WITH THE SKRULLS REACHED ITS CLIMAX. BY STRIKING THE NEGA-BANDS, JONES COULD TRADE PLACES WITH MAR-VELL FOR SHORT PERIODS--



--BUT IT WAS JONES HIMSELF, ALONGSIDE THE AVENGERS, WHO ENDED THE KREE/SKRULL WAR ONCE THE SUPREME INTELLIGENCE SPARKED WITHIN HIM--FOR A BRIEF BUT CRITICAL MOMENT-- THE DESTINY FORCE, A MYSTERIOUS AND NEAR-LIMITLESS ENERGY THAT BESTED BOTH ARMIES.



CONCURRENTLY, DESTINY IN ANOTHER FORM WAS AT WORK ON EARTH, REPEATEDLY BRINGING TOGETHER THE HULK, DR. STRANGE, THE SUB-MARINER AND, SOON, THE SILVER SURFER TO FIGHT THREATS BOTH MYSTICAL AND MECHANICAL.

WORKING WELL TOGETHER, THEY FORMED A LOOSE CONFEDERATION OF CHAMPIONS SUCH AS VALKYRIE, CALLING THEMSELVES THE DEFENDERS.



IT WAS NOT THE ONLY GROUP THAT CLAIMED STEPHEN STRANGE AND NAMOR AS MEMBERS.

IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE KREE/SKRULL WAR, FEARING FURTHER INCURSIONS FROM ALIEN RACES, IRON MAN CONVENED A SECRET COUNCIL OF FRIENDS AND ACQUAINTANCES--DR. STRANGE, THE SUB-MARINER, BLACK BOLT, REED RICHARDS, PROFESSOR XAVIER AND, BRIEFLY, THE BLACK PANTHER.

REFERRING TO THEMSELVES AS **THE ILLUMINATI**, THEY MET PERIODICALLY TO EXCHANGE HIGHLY CLASSIFIED INFORMATION CRITICAL TO EARTH'S SURVIVAL.

XAVIER, IN FACT, HAD GIVEN HIS BLESSING TO HIS GRADUATING STUDENTS TO EXPLORE NEW LIVES OF THEIR OWN.

THE FIRST OF HIS CLASS TO LEAVE THE SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS, **RANK MCCOY** LATER MUTATED FURTHER INTO A BEAST-LIKE FORM THAT WOULD EVOLVE OVER THE COMING YEARS. THE OTHERS CONTINUED TO OPERATE UNDERCOVER.

NOT ALL THE MENACES OF THE ERA WERE STAR-SPANNING. SIANCONG VETERAN MARINE **FRANK CASTLE** WAS FOREVER TRAUMATIZED BY THE DEATH OF HIS FAMILY AT THE HANDS OF MOBSTERS.

EQUIPPED WITH A STATE-OF-THE-ART ARSENAL, CASTLE BEGAN WAGING A ONE-MAN WAR AGAINST CRIME AS **THE PUNISHER**.

STUNT MOTORCYCLIST **JOHNNY BLAZE** BARGAINED WITH HELL'S MEPHISTO TO SAVE THE LIFE OF HIS ADOPTIVE FATHER. THEREAFTER BOUND TO THE DEMON **ZARATHOS** TO DISPENSE SUPERNATURAL VENGEANCE AS THE NEWEST **GHOST RIDER**.





NEW YORK BECAME HOME
TO A RAPID INFUX OF
MARTIAL ARTS MASTERS.
AMONG THEM **DANNY RAND**,
RECENT HEIR TO THE MANTLE
OF **IRON FIST**, AND
SHANG-CHI, REBELLIOUS
SON OF AN INTERNATIONAL
CRIME BOSS.

CARL LUCAS, IMPRISONED FOR
A CRIME HE DID NOT COMMIT,
VOLUNTEERED FOR EXPERIMENTAL
MEDICAL RESEARCH. AN
ELECTRO-BIOCHEMICAL TREATMENT
ENDOWED HIM WITH SUPERHUMAN
STRENGTH AND DURABILITY.

HE USED HIS NEWFOUND
ABILITIES TO ESCAPE FROM
PRISON AND, UNDER THE NAME
LUKE CAGE, ESTABLISH A
CAREER AS A "HERO FOR HIRE."

SCIENTIST **TED SALLIS**, DOSED
WITH HIS OWN VARIATION OF THE SUPER-
SOLDIER SERUM, TAINTED BY THE MYSTIC
WATERS OF A FLORIDA SWAMP, WAS
TRANSFORMED INTO THE GRUESOME
MAN-THING, WHOSE TOUCH BURNED
THOSE WHO FELT FEAR IN HIS PRESENCE.

HIS ADVENTURES LED TO A
MEETING WITH A DUCK-LIKE
BEING KNOWN ONLY AS
HOWARD, A TRANSPLANT
FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION.

TEENAGER **JACK RUSSELL**
FELL PREY TO A FAMILY
CURSE THAT MADE HIM A
WEREWOLF BY NIGHT.

BIOCHEMIST **MICHAEL
MORBIUS'** SELF-TREATMENT
FOR A RARE BLOOD DISEASE
BROUGHT WITH IT VAMPIRIC
SIDE EFFECTS.




FROM A YOUNG AGE, NATASHA ROMANOFF HAD BEEN TRAINED BY THE RUSSIAN RED ROOM TO BECOME A FEARLESS ASSASSIN CODENAMED THE BLACK WIDOW. AFTER AN ENCOUNTER WITH IRON MAN, HOWEVER, SHE EMANCIPATED HERSELF FROM HER CRUEL MASTERS AND CAME TO AMERICA.

IN SAN FRANCISCO, SHE BEGAN A BRIEF ROMANCE WITH DAREDEVIL. TOGETHER, THEY ENCOUNTERED MOONDRAGON, AN EARTHLING WHO HAD BEEN RAISED ON TITAN BY THANOS' FATHER MENTOR AFTER THE MAD TITAN'S ACTIONS LEFT HER ORPHANED.

A SUBSEQUENT ADVENTURE INTRODUCED THE TWO TO SHANNA O'HARA, AN ANIMAL CAREGIVER WHO HAD TURNED HER BACK ON THE MODERN WORLD IN EXCHANGE FOR A LIFE IN THE SAVAGE LAND.


IT WAS THERE THAT SHANNA, IN TURN, ENCOUNTERED KEVIN PLUNDER, A BOY ABANDONED IN THE SAVAGE LAND WHO HAD GROWN TO MANHOOD UNDER THE NAME KA-ZAR, "SON OF THE TIGER."




NO STRANGER TO TRAGEDY, SPIDER-MAN WOULD FACE HIS GREATEST LOSS THUS FAR WHEN **NORMAN OSBORN**, THE **GREEN GOBLIN**, KIDNAPPED HIS GIRLFRIEND, **GWEN STACY**.

DURING THEIR BATTLE, STACY FELL FROM A GREAT HEIGHT AND SPIDER-MAN'S ATTEMPT TO SAVE HER ONLY ACCELERATED HER DEATH.

SWEE!



THOUGH SPIDER-MAN'S THIRST FOR VENGEANCE ACCIDENTALLY LED TO HIS ARCHENEMY'S APPARENT DEATH, THE YOUNG MAN FOUND NO COMFORT IN VICTORY.



NOR WAS HE AWARE THAT A COLLEGE PROFESSOR OF HIS, **DR. MILES WARREN**--THE DEVISOR **JACKAL**--HAD EMBARKED ON A FAR-REACHING PLOT AGAINST SPIDER-MAN THAT WOULD EVENTUALLY PRODUCE CLONES OF BOTH GWEN STACY AND PETER PARKER.



PITTED AGAINST ONE ANOTHER BY DORMAMMU AND LOKI, THE AVENGERS AND THE DEFENDERS FOUGHT OVER A MYSTIC ARTIFACT KNOWN AS THE EVIL EYE.

ONLY UPON JOINING FORCES WERE THEY ABLE TO THWART THEIR ENEMIES' GOAL OF PLUNGING EARTH INTO THE DARK DIMENSION.



THE SCARLET WITCH WED HER FELLOW AVENGER, THE SYNTHETOID KNOWN AS THE VISION.

THOUGH THEIR MARRIAGE WOULD NOT LAST, THEIR FRIENDSHIP WOULD LONG ENDURE. AVENGER MANTIS SIMULTANEOUSLY BONDED WITH A MEMBER OF THE COTATI RACE WHO HAD TAKEN THE FORM OF HER LATE COMPANION, THE SWORDSMAN.



DISILLUSIONED UPON LEARNING THAT THE LEADER OF THE CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION CALLED THE SECRET EMPIRE WAS ACTUALLY A HIGHLY PLACED GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL, CAPTAIN AMERICA TEMPORARILY ABANDONED HIS PATRIOTIC IDENTITY AND BECAME THE NOMAD, BOUND TO NO COUNTRY'S POLITICS.

IN CANADA, ENGINEER JAMES MACDONALD HUDSON WAS INSPIRED BY THE FANTASTIC FOUR TO CREATE HIS OWN TEAM OF SUPERHUMANS, ALPHA FLIGHT.

AMONG THEIR EARLIEST MISSIONS WAS A FAILED ATTEMPT TO RECAPTURE WOLVERINE, AN EXPATRIATE WHO HAD LEFT CANADA'S DEPARTMENT H TO JOIN THE X-MEN.



WOLVERINE'S FIRST BATTLE WITH THE HULK HAD BROUGHT HIM TO THE ATTENTION OF PROFESSOR XAVIER.



WHEN THE X-MEN DISAPPEARED ON A MISSION, XAVIER RECRUITED WOLVERINE--ALONG WITH MUTANTS BANSHEE, COLOSSUS, SUNFIRE, STORM, THUNDERBIRD AND NIGHTCRAWLER--TO RESCUE THE ORIGINAL TEAM.



UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF CYCLOPS, THEY ELECTED TO STAY TOGETHER AS THE NEW X-MEN.



SOON AFTER, TEAMMATE JEAN GREY SACRIFICED HERSELF TO SAVE HER FRIENDS. IN THAT MOMENT, THE PHOENIX FORCE CREATED A DUPLICATE JEAN, BELIEVED BY ALL, INCLUDING HERSELF, TO BE THE ORIGINAL.

AS PHOENIX, SHE LED THE X-MEN TO THEIR GREATEST TRIUMPH TO DATE--THE REPAIR OF THE M'KRAAN CRYSTAL AND THE SALVATION OF THE ENDANGERED CRYSTAL HEART OF REALITY.

ALL WERE ASTOUNDED AT THE POWER OF THE PHOENIX, UNAWARE THAT THEIR ASTONISHMENT...

...WOULD SOON TURN INTO TERROR.

**TO BE
CONTINUED!**

NEXT



HISTORY OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #3 ANNOTATIONS

Design: Stacie Zucker with Adam Del Re



When the government suddenly withdrew funding for his starship, genius Reed Richards pushed his best friend, pilot Ben Grimm, into a premature test flight. Accompanied by an insistent Susan Storm (Reed's girlfriend) and her younger brother, Johnny, the quartet were irrevocably changed by unexpected cosmic rays during the flight. The four quickly resolved to use their newfound powers to benefit humanity and to explore the unknown together as Mister Fantastic, the Thing, the Invisible Girl and the Human Torch—the Fantastic Four. The team's origin can be found in *Fantastic Four #1* (1961).



Seeing teenaged Rick Jones in the blast zone of an impending test of a gamma bomb he had created, Dr. Bruce Banner selflessly rushed to get him to safety. However, a secret Russian agent did not delay the detonation, causing Banner to be inundated with massive amounts of radiation. Initially, the radiation caused him to transform at night into a lumbering gray monster, whom a soldier called a "hulk." Banner's transformations soon manifested in green hues, the color the Hulk would generally maintain for years. Prone to rage-filled rampages and suffering from dissociative identity disorder, Banner and the Hulk was soon seen as a threat to humanity. Hulk's first transformation is told in the *Incredible Hulk #1* (1962) and his first green transformation was in *Incredible Hulk #2* (1962). The Hulk's initial skin color was gray, but became green starting with his second appearance. Later stories in the Hulk's mythology revealed his gray skin manifestation was one of numerous personalities within Banner's dissociative identity disorder.



Following an argument with his teammates, the Human Torch wandered into the New York Bowery. After burning off the beard and long hair of a man there, the Torch realized it was Namor, the Sub-Mariner, and thought he would help him by taking him to the ocean, unwittingly unleashing one of the Fantastic Four's greatest enemies; Namor's enmity toward the team was somewhat curbed by his attraction to the Invisible Girl. Namor's recovery from amnesia occurs in *Fantastic Four #4* (1962).



Refusing to heed Reed Richards' warnings that his calculations were off in a college experiment, arrogant genius Victor Von Doom was expelled after the resulting explosion. In Tibet, Doom conquered an order of monks and made them forge a suit of armor to hide the scars the explosion left him with; Doom insisted the mask be put on his face while it was still hot, furthering the scarring. As the armored **Doctor Doom**, he used advanced technology and sorcery to conquer the small European nation of Latveria, ruling it tyrannically. Making the subjugation of Reed Richards and the ruling of Earth his goals, Doctor Doom became the archenemy of the Fantastic Four and one of the most dangerous men to ever walk the planet. Doom's origin is revealed in *Fantastic Four Annual #2* (1964).



Brilliant yet unstable scientist Henry Pym discovered unique particles that could alter the size of anything they came into contact with. Testing them on himself, Pym was nearly killed by the residents of an anthill while he was ant-sized. Believing the potential benefits these particles held for science were too great to ignore, Pym continued to experiment with them, ultimately using them to become the heroic **Ant-Man**, the first of many heroic identities Pym would adopt over the coming years. Pym's first shrinking is in *Tales to Astonish #27* (1962), and his first outing as Ant-Man is in *Tales to Astonish #35* (1962).





Timid high schooler Peter Parker gained spider-like superhuman abilities when he was bitten by a radioactive spider during a science experiment. Initially using his powers to gain fame and wealth, Parker arrogantly refused to stop a criminal running past him, as doing so would not benefit him personally. Parker was later devastated to learn the criminal had killed his beloved Uncle Ben, the caring man who adopted Parker after his CIA agent parents were killed on a mission. Realizing with great power there must also come great responsibility, Parker dedicated the use of his abilities toward helping others as **Spider-Man**. *Amazing Fantasy #15* (1963).

Thor spent years trapped in the body of Dr. Donald Blake, a mortal who required a cane to walk. Believing his son had learned humility, Odin compelled Blake to journey to Norway, where he found a wooden cane in a cave. After striking the cane on a rock, Blake transformed into Thor, his memories restored; the cane became the mighty hammer Mjolnir. Thor continued to treat the sick as Blake and battled evil as Thor on both Earth and his native Asgard. Thor's restoration is revealed in *Journey into Mystery #83* (1962) and expanded upon in a retelling of Thor's full origin in *Thor Annual #11* (1983).

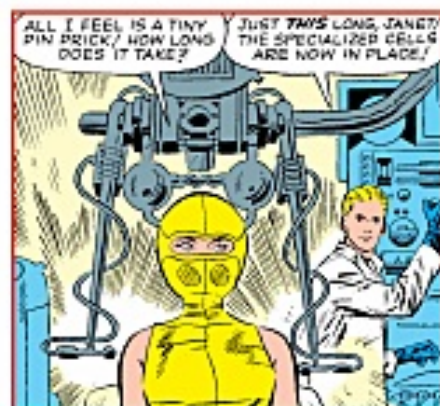




Iron Man #267-268 (1991) and *Tales of Suspense #39* (1963) detail the origin of Iron Man: While in the Southeast Asian country of Sin-Cong to visit one of his international plants, weapons manufacturer and engineering genius Tony Stark was captured by terrorists led by the revolutionary Wong-Chu. During Stark's capture a landmine detonated, causing a piece of shrapnel to be lodged near his heart. While in captivity, Stark was ordered to develop advanced weaponry for Wong-Chu's forces; instead he and fellow captive Ho Yinsen developed a suit of armor that prevented the shrapnel from entering Stark's heart and granted him superhuman strength and weaponry. Yinsen sacrificed himself so Stark could escape and battle Wong-Chu's forces. With the help of U.S. Marine James Rhodes, Stark returned to America, then became one of the country's most prominent super heroes, Iron Man. NOTE: To accommodate for the passage of time since publication, references to the Vietnam War in Iron Man's origin should be retroactively considered to be of the Sin-Cong Conflict (as detailed in the annotations for this series' second issue).



While investigating the moon's "Blue Area" (the ruins of a former alien Kree settlement), the Fantastic Four were attacked by the Russian Red Ghost and his Super-Apes. Having established his home in the Blue Area billions of years ago, Earth's Watcher (Uatu) observed the battle, then, impressed with their victory, allowed the Fantastic Four to retain their memories of him. Over the subsequent years, the Watcher's fondness for the Fantastic Four led him to occasionally break his vow of noninterference in order to aid them. The Fantastic Four first encounter the Watcher in *Fantastic Four #13* (1963).



Henry Pym's experiments with size continued, resulting in the transformation of socialite Janet Van Dyne into the winged, shrinking Wasp in *Tales to Astonish #44* (1963) after she reached out to Pym for help avenging the death of her father at the hands of an extradimensional criminal. The Wasp would become Ant-Man's crimefighting partner as well as his romantic partner. In *Tales to Astonish #49* (1963), while working to perfect the serum he used to grow from ant-size, Pym accidentally grew to giant proportions; Pym subsequently used this unexpected discovery as the 12-foot-tall Giant-Man.





Prior to his transformation into Giant-Man, Pym was one of five super-beings drawn together through the machinations of Loki, the Asgardian god of mischief. While intending for Thor and Hulk to battle each other, Loki's efforts instead resulted in these two working alongside Iron Man, Ant-Man and the Wasp in defeating Loki and becoming Earth's mightiest heroes, the **Avengers**. This group would expand to the size of an army over the years, becoming the premier collective of super-beings on the planet; much to Loki's chagrin. *Avengers #1* (1963).



Himself a mutant, a human born with an extra gene granting him superhuman powers, Charles Xavier dedicated his life to resisting mutants who would use their powers for evil, including his best friend, the man known as Magneto. Xavier gathered mutant youth together to train them in the use of their powers so they could protect the ideal of peaceful coexistence between mutant- and humankind. His first gathering of the **X-Men**—the eye-blasting Cyclops, Iceman, the acrobatic Beast, the high-flying Angel and the telekinetic/telepathic Marvel Girl—was a public battle with Magneto when he tried to seize the Cape Citadel missile base to use against humans. The teens were initially hailed as heroes, but their secretive nature and the public's general distrust of mutants gradually caused them to be both feared and hated by society at large. Shown on page eight is the team battling one of their earliest foes, the Blob. The team's first appearance is in *X-Men #1* (1963).



The ideological struggle between Xavier and Magneto intensified when Magneto also gathered mutants to his side, declaring them the Brotherhood of Evil Mutants. The two teams battled on the first anniversary of the X-Men's founding, after the Brotherhood took over the South American nation of Santo Marco. Among Magneto's allies stood the teleporting Astra, illusion-casting Mastermind, the grotesque Toad, speedster Quicksilver and the probability-altering Scarlet Witch. Astra departed prior to the battle with the X-Men and the latter two—not espousing Magneto's claims of mutant superiority—quickly turned away from the Brotherhood. The two teams' first recorded battle takes place in *X-Men #4* (1964), and Astra's involvement with the team is retroactively revealed in *X-Men #86* (1999).



Encountering a group of Arctic humans worshipping a figure frozen in ice, the ever-irrational Namor flung the block of ice into the ocean, where the pursuing Avengers found the figure and realized it was the original Captain America. After reviving him from his frozen hibernation, the team welcomed Captain America into their ranks; Cap quickly became a linchpin of the team and reclaimed his place as the pinnacle of heroism in America and the world. The recovery and return of Captain America takes place in *Avengers #4* (1964).



Though blinded as a child by an accident involving radioactive materials, Matthew Murdock's other senses were heightened to supernatural levels. Under the secret training of the also blind Stick, Murdock studied martial arts, eventually becoming an Olympic-level gymnast and fighter. Murdock graduated law school and began fighting crime in the courtroom by day and in the alley at night, claiming a mean childhood nickname as his hero name—**Daredevil** was born. Daredevil first appears in a yellow-and-red costume in *Daredevil #1* (1964) and adopts his most frequently used red outfit in *Daredevil #7* (1965); Daredevil's origin is retold and expanded in *Daredevil: The Man Without Fear #1-5* (1993-1994).



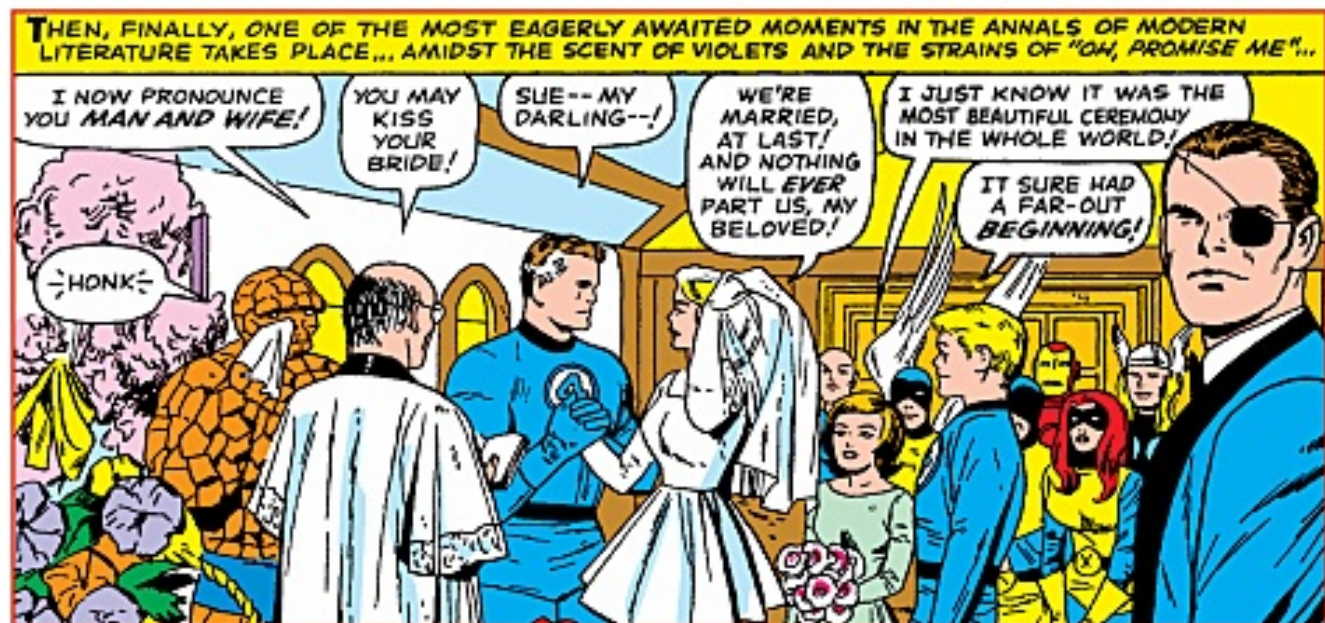
Fantastic Four #12 (1963) is the first depiction of the Thing pitting his strength against the Hulk when the U.S. Army requested the help of the Fantastic Four in stopping the menace of the green giant. Though their interactions over the years have been largely tense, the two men have come to begrudgingly respect each other and work together periodically.



A long-standing tradition of the Avengers and Fantastic Four working together first occurs when the teams communicate in *Avengers #3* (1964) and then meet in *Fantastic Four #25-26* (1964), all due to various threats posed by the Hulk. The teams would continue to cooperate over the years, frequently sharing information, cooperating to defeat enemies and even sharing headquarters when needed.



When the founding Avengers decided to step down from active duty to focus on various responsibilities in their personal lives, Captain America led a trio of reformed criminals—Quicksilver, the Scarlet Witch and the archer Hawkeye—in becoming a solid replacement roster. While initially met with skepticism by the public, "Cap's Kooky Quartet" earned the respect of civilians and fellow heroes alike. This major shake-up of the Avengers roster—the first of many over the team's storied history—takes place in *Avengers #16* (1965).



Already famous for their exploits as members of the Fantastic Four, Reed Richards and Susan Storm's announcement of their engagement and pending marriage was huge news and caused much excitement for the public. Though nearly every costumed super villain was gathered by Doctor Doom in a plot to destroy the Fantastic Four and the other heroes attending the wedding, their efforts were quickly stopped, and the wedding day ended up being one of joy and happiness for the couple and their guests. The wedding is first presented in *Fantastic Four Annual #3* (1965). It is then revisited in *Marvel: Heroes & Legends #1* (1996) and *Marvels #2* (1994).



Though the first meeting of the two groups was filled with suspicion and conflict, the Fantastic Four and the royal family of the Inhumans (the immensely powerful and mute Black Bolt, hair-manipulating Medusa, elemental Crystal, aquatic Triton, hooved Gorgon, skilled combatant Karnak and teleporting dog Lockjaw) became fast friends and loyal allies. In the long-standing tradition of the Inhumans, the race preferred to stay hidden from baseline humanity, but the trust connecting the emissaries of the two races has remained steadfast for years; both Medusa and Crystal have served as members of the Fantastic Four at times. *Fantastic Four #44-48* (1965-1966) tells the tale of the first meeting of these groups and the first appearance of the Inhumans race.



The ruler of the African nation of Wakanda, the holder of the ceremonial role and powers of the Black Panther and the shepherd of Wakanda's rare Vibranium supply and vastly advanced technology, T'Challa was taught by his late father to think steps ahead of anyone else. To that end, he invited the Fantastic Four to Wakanda to test them through combat to discern if they were a threat to Wakanda. Eventually, the Four earned the king's respect and departed Wakanda as the Panther's steadfast friends. The milestone first appearance of mainstream comics' first black super hero was in *Fantastic Four #52-54* (1966).

Fulfilling his mission of locating suitable planets for Galactus to consume, the Silver Surfer led his master to Earth. Despite the immense odds of facing someone so powerful, the Fantastic Four confronted the world-eater and fought a losing battle until the Silver Surfer—convinced by blind sculptor (and the Thing's girlfriend) Alicia Masters that humanity should be spared Galactus' hunger—joined the resistance. With the timely assistance of the Watcher, the Human Torch located the Ultimate Nullifier, a weapon capable of destroying everything, and, using that as leverage, prevented Galactus from consuming a planet for the first time in recorded history. As punishment for his betrayal, Galactus bound the space-faring Silver Surfer to Earth, leaving him unable to reach the stars. *Fantastic Four* #48-50 (1966).



Advanced Idea Mechanics (A.I.M.) was a scientific group that splintered off of terrorist organization Hydra; one of their earliest endeavors was the recovery of the Red Skull and his revival from suspended animation. Though he worked with them for a time, the Skull inevitably turned on them, claiming their greatest creation, the reality-altering Cosmic Cube. Despite having near-infinite power in his grasp, the Skull was still defeated by his archfoe, Captain America; their animosity freshly renewed, the war between Captain America and the Red Skull continues today. **The Red Skull's revival in modern times** was explained in *Tales of Suspense #79-81* (1966).



Henry Pym suffered a major mental break when he accidentally exposed himself to untested gases, coming to believe himself to be a different, more confident and brave person known as Yellowjacket. Fearing a psychotic break should they challenge him, the Avengers played along with Pym's delusion, and the **Wasp married Yellowjacket** to help protect Pym's sanity. Though his normal personality asserted itself soon after, the two opted to make their marriage official; Pym maintained the Yellowjacket identity for a number of years. Yellowjacket's first appearance and the wedding unfolded in *Avengers #59-60* (1968).



Mar-Vell was Kree, born on the planet Kree-Lar in the Large Magellanic Cloud Galaxy, where he joined the Kree military after reaching adulthood. Sent to Earth to investigate whether it posed danger to the Kree Empire, Mar-Vell served under the command of Yon-Rogg, who saw Mar-Vell as a rival and tried repeatedly to eliminate him. After living secretly among humans for a time, Mar-Vell came to respect them and resisted Kree efforts to harm the planet. Alienated from his own people as a result but not fully belonging to Earth, **Captain Marvel** nonetheless fought to protect everyone. Sometime after adopting a new uniform, Mar-Vell was selected by ancient cosmic being Eon as the latest Protector of the Universe and was granted Cosmic Awareness, the potential knowledge of the entire universe. Mar-Vell first appeared in *Marvel Super-Heroes* #12 (1967), his origin was told in *Captain Marvel* #16 (1969) and his selection to be the Protector of the Universe occurred in *Captain Marvel* #28-29 (1973).



While researching faster-than-light travel, Mister Fantastic inadvertently journeyed to the **Negative Zone**, an alien universe comprised of antimatter; this is believed to be Earth's first contact with the Zone. Over the years, the Fantastic Four and others have explored the Negative Zone, interacting with many of the untold races and planets that reside within, many of them dangerous. Among the most dangerous is **Annihilus**, the "Living Death That Walks," an insectoid creature with megalomaniacal aspirations who has tried to conquer and destroy the positive universe numerous times. Mister Fantastic's first journey to the Zone was recorded in *Fantastic Four #51* (1966), and Annihilus first appeared in *Fantastic Four Annual #6* (1968).



The Fantastic Four's family became five when **Franklin Richards** was born to the Invisible Woman and Mister Fantastic. Though his birth was imperiled by the cosmic radiation in Sue Richards' blood due to her exposure to cosmic rays, the rest of the Four journeyed to the Negative Zone to use Annihilus' Cosmic Control Rod to reduce Susan's energies enough to ensure a safe birth. However, likely due to his parents' mutated genes, Franklin grew to become one of Earth's most powerful mutants. Franklin's birth was depicted in *Fantastic Four Annual #6* (1968).



When Captain Marvel became stranded in the antimatter Negative Zone, he was only able to travel to the positive universe when the Hulk's friend Rick Jones banged together a pair of wristbands (the Nega-Bands) to trade places with him for a few hours daily. Though their situation caused stress for both men, the two worked together to do good work anyway. Captain Marvel's bonding with Rick Jones took place in *Captain Marvel #17* (1969).



The Avengers and Captain Marvel were drawn into the centuries-long war between the alien Kree and Skrulls when Earth was imperiled by the hostilities and friend of the team Rick Jones was captured by the Kree and taken to the Kree ruler, the Supreme Intelligence, who wanted to tap into the near-infinite source of power within Jones. However, Jones temporarily used this power (later called the Destiny Force) to create doppelgangers of superhumans he remembered from growing up; these beings protected Jones, who then used his power to freeze the Skrull and Kree forces in time. This particular chapter of the Kree-Skrull War can be found in *Avengers #89-97* (1971-1972).



The **Defenders** are an eclectic gathering of super-beings who are drawn together by circumstances rather than officially organized as a team like the Avengers; rosters are usually comprised of whoever is needed (or present) for a particular threat or battle. Among the most frequent members of the "non-team" are the first three who came together as the Defenders: Doctor Strange, Namor and the Hulk as well as the Silver Surfer and the Asgardian Valkyrie named Brunnhilde. Over the years, the team has disbanded numerous times due to their informal nature but are always quick to reconvene when needed. The first gathering was told in *Marvel Feature #1-3* (1971-1972), the Silver Surfer "joined" in *Defenders #1-2* (1972) and Valkyrie was first active in *Defenders #4* (1973).



Worried about the safety of Earth following his experiences in the Kree-Skrull War, Iron Man called together a number of prominent leaders within the super-powered community and suggested they gather to share information and help shape events to ensure the protection of Earth. Though the Black Panther rejected the invitation, Mister Fantastic, Doctor Strange, Namor, Black Bolt of the Inhumans and Charles Xavier of the X-Men joined together in this "Illuminati." The group vowed to keep their existence and activities secret from all, even their own families. During one of their first recorded outings as a group, the Illuminati confronted the Skrull leadership and warned them from trying to invade Earth. The team's origin and subsequent activities through the years were first recorded in *New Avengers: Illuminati #1* (2006) and continued in *New Avengers: Illuminati #1-5* (2007).



Following his time serving in the U.S. military during conflicts in Southeast Asia, Frank Castle took his wife and two young children to a secluded area of New York City's Central Park for a picnic and stumbled upon a mob murder. Not wanting witnesses, the mobsters opened fire on the Castle family, killing all but Frank. The tragedy drew out the propensity for violence in Castle, and he began a one-man war against crime as the **Punisher**. Countless criminals have died at Castle's hands, and he often comes into conflict with various super heroes who disapprove of his lethal methods. The Punisher first appeared in *Amazing Spider-Man #129* (1974), and his origin was told in *Punisher: Year One #1-4* (1994-1995).



Carl Lucas was a former gang member who was framed for a crime he didn't commit and was put in prison for twenty years. While in jail he volunteered for an experimental cell regeneration project. When a sadistic guard sabotaged the equipment, Lucas was unintentionally enhanced to superhuman levels. Now possessing immense strength and durability, Lucas escaped prison, changed his name to **Luke Cage** and began a career as a hero for hire in New York City. Eventually, Cage cleared his name and became a household name in super-heroics, especially in Harlem. Cage's first appearance and origin are in *Hero for Hire #1* (1972).



Jack Russell was born into a family with the curse of lycanthropy (the condition that creates werewolves) that dated back to at least 1795. After turning 18, Russell inherited the family curse and began turning into the **Werewolf** with every full moon. Since that time, Russell struggled to come to terms with his werewolf side, sought a cure for the curse and walked through the mystical and dark realms of the Marvel Universe. The Werewolf's first appearance and origin are in *Marvel Spotlight #2* (1972).



An underachieving native of a world of anthropomorphic animals, **Howard the Duck** was unexpectedly transported to Earth-616 (the prime Marvel Universe) when the Nexus of All Realities was disrupted by the demon Thog. Trapped on a world he never made, the ill-tempered Howard arrived in Cleveland, where he met Beverly Switzer.

She would become his good friend, lover and constant companion in his quest for happiness, a good meal and a way back home. Howard the Duck's first appearance is in *Fear #19* (1973) and his origin is in *Howard the Duck #13* (1977), *Howard the Duck #6* (1980) and *Marvel Treasury Edition #12* (1976).



Biochemist Ted Sallis was recruited by intelligence agency S.H.I.E.L.D. to attempt re-creating the Super-Soldier Serum that created Captain America. Sallis modified a previous invention—a serum that would give immunity to toxic biochemicals but would transform the subject into a monster—as the basis for the re-creation. When the corrupt

Advanced Idea Mechanics (A.I.M.) tried to seize his work, Sallis injected the only sample of the serum into himself. Magical energies of the nearby Nexus of Reality in a Florida swamp combined with the serum to transform him into the **Man-Thing**, a being comprising moss, algae and weeds. Highly empathic, extreme emotions such as fear, anger and hatred cause him to attack. Fear in another causes Man-Thing to create an acid-like substance that burns anyone he touches. Nearly mindless, the Man-Thing instinctively protects the Nexus of Reality, keeping those who would abuse it at bay. Man-Thing's first appearance and origin are in *Savage Tales #1* (1971).



A rare disorder causing blood cells to dissolve forced Nobel Prize-winning biochemist Dr. Michael Morbius to experiment with unorthodox cures. One attempt using fluids from bats combined with an electrical shock unexpectedly transformed Morbius into something similar to a vampire. Since then, **Morbius the Living Vampire** has struggled to control his hunger for blood while searching for a cure. Morbius' first appearance and origin are in *Amazing Spider-Man #101-102* (1971).



Natasha Romanoff, who was orphaned as a child, is believed to be a relative of Russia's last ruling czars. Raised in the USSR's Black Widow Program, Romanoff became a master spy and one of the world's premier combatants. Eventually turning her back on her Russian masters, Romanoff, as the **Black Widow**, began a long career as a S.H.I.E.L.D. agent, became a partner and lover of Daredevil (Matt Murdock) and joined the Avengers. The Black Widow's villainous debut occurred in *Tales of Suspense #52* (1964) and her origin was told in *Black Widow: Deadly Origin #1-4* (2010). Her partnership with Daredevil began in *Daredevil #81* (1971) and ended in *Daredevil #124* (1975).



Heather Douglas was orphaned by Thanos of Titan when he destroyed a car to prevent his detection during a scouting mission on Earth. Mentor, Thanos' benevolent father, took Douglas to Titan, where she was taken in by the Priests of Pama at the Shao-Lom monastery. The priests trained her to become a master of the martial, mystic and mental arts. Arrogant and abrasive, Douglas took the name **Moondragon** after defeating the Titans' ancient enemy Dragon of the Moon. Though often considering herself godlike and superior, Moondragon has worked alongside many of Earth's heroes, including the Defenders and Avengers. Moondragon first appeared as **Madame MacEvil** in *Iron Man #54* (1973); her origin is revealed in *Daredevil #105* (1973).



After her mother was killed by an accidental gunshot, Shanna O'Hara was traumatized and left with a lifetime hatred of guns. She turned down a spot on an Olympic gymnastics team to become a doctor in veterinary medicine. While taking two orphaned leopard cubs to the African Dahomey Reserve to be reintroduced to the wild, Shanna began a one-woman war on poachers, slavers, even superhuman villains; locals began calling her **Shanna the She-Devil**. Her activities eventually led her to the prehistoric Savage Land in Antarctica where she met **Ka-Zar** (Kevin Plunder), the "savage" protector of the land, and his companion **Zabu**, a saber-toothed tiger. The two eventually married and had a son. They remain staunch protectors of the flora and fauna of the Savage Land. **Shanna the She-Devil #1** (1973) reveals Shanna's origin.

Kevin Plunder was 9 when his father took him to the Savage Land on an expedition to obtain a rare metal discovered there. When his father was killed by primitive Man-Apes, Kevin was saved by a saber-toothed tiger named **Zabu**, who became Kevin's constant companion and protector. Over the years in the Savage Land, Kevin became very powerful from the harsh life there and was dubbed **Ka-Zar** ("Son of the Tiger") as he grew to become the protector and lord of the land. Eventually, he met and married **Shanna the She-Devil**, who joined him in his efforts to guard the Savage Land. The two eventually had a son. **Ka-Zar** first appeared in *X-Men #10* (1965), but his origin was not revealed until *Daredevil #13* (1966).



Wanting to hurt his most hated enemy in the deepest way imaginable, the insane **Green Goblin** (Norman Osborn) struck at **Spider-Man** (Peter Parker) through those Spider-Man loved, kidnapping his girlfriend **Gwen Stacy**. Parker pursued the Goblin but could not stop him from pushing Stacy off the top of the Brooklyn Bridge. Though he was able to catch her with one of his weblines, the sudden stop snapped her neck, killing her. Consumed with rage, Spider-Man doggedly pursued the Goblin. During a ferocious battle between the two men, the Goblin tried to impale Spider-Man with the sharp edge of his flying glider, but Spider-Man instinctively leaped out of its way in time for the glider to pierce the Goblin in the chest, delivering a mortal wound. The deaths of **Gwen Stacy** and the **Green Goblin** are chronicled in *Amazing Spider-Man #121-122* (1973).



Obsessing about his student Gwen Stacy, a girl he could never have, and devastated by her death, Professor Miles Warren became unhinged and eventually cloned her. Blaming Spider-Man for Stacy's death, Warren also cloned him, hoping to use both clones to torment him. A confrontation between the two Spider-Men and the Jackal ended with what Spider-Man believed was the death of the Spider-Man clone and the Jackal. However, Warren's actions sowed seeds that would prove devastating to Spider-Man's life in the future. The story of the Jackal's cloning of Gwen Stacy and Spider-Man unfolds in *Amazing Spider-Man #149-151* (1975).



Avengers #116-118 (1973) and *Defenders #9-10* (1973) tell the story of the Avengers-Defenders War, a conflict where the Avengers and the Defenders were manipulated into battling each other by the tyrannical ruler of the Dark Dimension, Dormammu, and the Asgardian God of Lies, Loki. Seeking to assemble the shattered Evil Eye, a powerful artifact that could free Dormammu to invade Earth, the two villains forced the individual members of both groups to duel over the six pieces of the Eye. After realizing they were being manipulated, the two teams came together to defeat the plans of their enemies; the two groups parted as friendly allies.



Quite possibly the strangest wedding in Marvel history takes place in *Giant-Sized Avengers #4* (1975), when two couples marry in a dual ceremony. In order to become the Celestial Madonna (a woman destined to give birth to the genetically perfect Celestial Messiah) empathic martial artist Mantis married the spirit of the alien Cotati Supreme Exemplar while it reanimated the body of deceased Avenger (and Mantis' former lover) Swordsman; following the ceremony, the two transformed to energy and departed Earth to fulfill their destiny. Longtime Avengers teammates Vision and the Scarlet Witch also married, finally giving in to their long-denied feelings. However, they remained unaware that they had long been manipulated by the time-traveling mastermind Immortus, who, believing any offspring of the Scarlet Witch could become dangerously powerful, wanted to encourage the union of the mutant with an artificial man whom he believed could not procreate. Despite this, the love between the two stood strong for a number of years.



Steve Rogers suffered a devastating blow to his confidence when he discovered the leader of the corrupt Secret Empire was a high-ranking U.S. government official, one who had helped try to frame Captain America for murder. When the confrontation with this official ended in their suicide, Rogers was horrified and quit being Captain America so he was not representing a nation that had been corrupted. However, he soon realized he could not ignore his mission to protect others and adopted another costumed identity—Nomad, the man without a country. When a man named Roscoe tried to fill the Captain America role and was killed by the Red Skull, Rogers reclaimed the title and uniform of Cap once more. The Secret Empire storyline begins in *Captain America #169* (1973), Rogers takes the Nomad identity in *Captain America #180* (1974) and the storyline culminates with him reclaiming the role of Cap in *Captain America #183-184* (1974).



While returning from a mission in outer space, the X-Men were forced to use a damaged space shuttle to return to Earth. After telepathically absorbing a pilot's flight abilities, Grey used her telekinesis to seal a hole in the shuttle's radiation shielding, believing she was the only one who could safely pilot the shuttle home while the X-Men remained in protective chambers. When the shuttle crashed in New York's Jamaica Bay, the X-Men surfaced and were shocked when Grey burst forth from the waters, apparently reborn as the vastly powerful Phoenix due to the immense radiation to which she was exposed. Jean Grey's apparent rebirth as the Phoenix was chronicled in *X-Men #100-101* (1976).



SHE REACHES OUT, IMAGES CASCAIDING THROUGH HER MIND, THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS BECOMING TANGIBLE--SHE TOUCHING THEM, THEY HER--THE PATTERNS OF HER LIFE, OF THE X-MEN'S LIVES, BECOMING ONE WITH THE LATTICE PATTERN SURROUNDING THE N-GALAXY.



REALITY TWISTS, COLLAPSES, RE-FORMS--THE STRAIN MORE THAN MIND OR BODY CAN BEAR--AND SHE NO LONGER KNOWS WHETHER SHE'S BIRD, FORM OR HUMAN, WHETHER SHE'S TRAPPED WITHIN THE SPHERE...



When an unintentional psychic connection between Xavier and an alien Shi'ar princess named Lilandra drew the X-Men into a rebellion amongst the Shi'ar royal family, Phoenix accompanied the team to outer space. The insane Shi'ar Emperor D'ken's intentions to misuse the ancient and powerful M'kraan Crystal (the "Crystal Heart of Reality") resulted in a violent confrontation between the X-Men, the Starjammers space pirates and the super-powered Shi'ar Imperial Guard, one that damaged the M'kraan Crystal and threatened to destroy all of reality. Buoyed by the life forces of the X-Men and Starjammers, Phoenix cosmically healed the M'kraan Crystal, single-handedly saving all of creation in a shocking act of immense power and godlike grandeur. *X-Men #105* and *#107-108* (1977).